


THE JERUSALEM
POST

Vol. LIV, No. 16226 Wednesday, May 28, 1986 • Iyar 19, 5746 • Ramadan 20, 1406 NIS 0.72 (Eilat NIS 0.63)



WALL STREET
Surge ahead
Closing prices
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Malmillian
keeps the
Cup in J'lem
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Jubilant fans parade through the streets of the capital last night to mark the triumph of Betar Jerusalem over Shimshon by 2-1 to win the State Cup for the second year in succession. (Brian Hender)

Thatcher: UK line on Palestine 'reassessed'

By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday implied that British policy on the Palestinian issue had undergone a "reassessment," distancing herself from the PLO, suggesting that "alternative" Palestinian leadership might be found and supported, the Palestinians "right to self-determination."

At a press conference on the eve of her departure from Israel, Thatcher said: "We support the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people." But she added that Britain regarded the "present proposal" of a Jordanian-Palestinian federation as "the most likely to achieve the widest acceptance" in the region and, hence, the likeliest to lead to a solution.

Thatcher referred movingly to her visit, at the start of the three-day sojourn, to Yaffo and the "heightened awareness" of Israel's striving for "security" with peace. Israelis, with the Holocaust just behind them, are unlike any other people, and their striving for peace with security must be understood in this context, she said. Anyone negotiating with Israel must understand this, she added.

Repeatedly, Thatcher said that "all" the Israeli leaders with whom she had talked — including Prime Minister Peres, Foreign Minister Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin — recognized that it was "not in Israel's long-term interest to be an occupying power." Again, however, she reiterated that the solution to the problem must include "security" for Israel.

Thatcher conceded that British policy concerning the Palestinians had undergone a "reassessment" following the PLO's failure to accept Security Resolution 242, and to re-

nounce terrorism. Britain is now focusing on finding an "alternative" leadership for the Palestinians, which would be ready to accept 242 and renounce terrorism.

Had the PLO leaders been ready to take those two steps, Thatcher said, American and some Israeli politicians would have been ready to see the PLO "in a new light" — implying that they would be willing to negotiate with that organization.

"I tried in every way I could to persuade a branch of the PLO to renounce terrorism and accept 242," at the end of last year, she said, referring to the abortive visit to Britain of PLO representative Mohamed Mithem and Elias Khoury.

Thatcher suggested that "some sort of electoral process" in the territories might be the way to set up an "alternative leadership."

At the same time, Thatcher said that the scheduled meeting of the president of the EEC's Council of Ministers Hans van den Broek with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was not a "precedent" and not the first of its kind. British "officials," she said, have from time to time also met with PLO officials, implying that this might continue. But no British cabinet member had held such meetings, she said. And she implied that this would not occur before the PLO accepted 242 and Israel's right to security and renounced terror.

Thatcher, referring to her meeting with Palestinian leaders on Monday night, denied that they had condemned Britain's support of the U.S. air strike against Libya. "They were very clear that they rejected terrorism and I would not say that they would reject 242 in any way," she said. But 242 was not specifically discussed at the meeting, she said.

(Continued on back page)

'Resignation would end crisis'

Peres denies pressure to bar police probe

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

Prime Minister Peres yesterday denied that he had exerted pressure on Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir to deter him from initiating a police investigation of the head of the General Security Services.

In an impassioned Knesset speech, Peres said that the anonymous fighters of terrorism and their self-effacing chief of the GSS (whose name he took pains not to mention) deserved better from the Knesset and the media.

Replying to four no-confidence motions, Peres said that law does not require the attorney-general to file charges against every suspect; it requires him to take into account the "security, political, and public" implications of a particular case.

All four motions were defeated by the votes of the coalition.

Peres said that Zamir had taken the initiative and had requested Peres's opinion on the subject, and that after hearing what Peres had to say he turned to the police (i.e., disregarding Peres's view). So where was "the pressure?"

"I didn't ask the attorney-general to be a yes-man. I acted in accordance with the law. I'm doing my

attorney-general "must always weigh the question whether opening criminal proceedings might be more damaging to the state than not opening them. In such cases, the justices said, he must not act before seeking information and advice from those who have the primary responsibility for the security interests of the state."

The prime minister recalled that Ben-Gurion had touched on this problem of the attorney-general's powers. Because, said Peres, if there is a mishap tomorrow in the war against territories, to whom will people turn? Won't they turn to the government? To the prime minister, to the minister of defence? Won't there be a no-confidence motion?

Ben-Gurion, Peres went on, had said: "If the law gives the attorney-general the last word, that's the law. But can he decide whether an action he takes is liable to harm Israel's sovereignty or security? That doesn't seem right to me. Should one man decide what will harm state security?"

Peres said he was not proposing that the attorney-general's powers be curtailed. Furthermore, he said, the cabinet had made no attempt to decide whether there should be an

Zamir urging security chief and his aides to quit their jobs

By BENNY MORRIS
ASHER WALLFISH
and ROY ISACOWITZ

Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir is still willing to consider the resignation of the head of the General Security Service and dropping charges against him as an honourable way out of the crisis which at present pits the chief law officer against most of the inner cabinet.

Zamir, according to legal sources, held up the police investigation of the GSS chief, Avraham Shalom, for more than two months in the hope that the security chief would resign and enable the attorney-general not to submit the case to investigation and possible prosecution, with all the damage that could cause the security service.

But Shalom refused to resign, leaving Zamir with the choice of either abandoning the case or forcing a police investigation. The legal sources said that even at this late hour, he would be willing in the interest of state security to consider the security chief's resignation and that of several of his aides implicated in the affair as a way to avert the police investigation and subsequent prosecution.

Reports yesterday said that the

GSS chief was suspected of having directly ordered the deaths of the two captured terrorists after their interrogation, and of having subsequently tampered with evidence and suborned witnesses.

Zamir said yesterday that the problem posed by the case was not only the gravest of its kind since the country's independence, but also posed more difficult questions of principle.

Zamir told reporters in the lobby outside the Knesset Law Committee rooms that because of the case he was being subjected to pressures more intense than any he had faced since assuming his post eight years ago.

"I am accustomed to pressures," he said, "and I can withstand them."

A senior official in Jerusalem said yesterday that the resignation of the head of the GSS was the only apparent way out of the impasse, created by the attorney-general's insistence that Shalom be investigated and, suspended from duty in the interim and the inner cabinet's opposition to such prosecution and to the security chief's suspension.

Inner cabinet members are near unanimous in regarding a prolonged investigation and possible prosecution of the head of the GSS and his aides while in office as intolerable. It

would badly harm the organization's functioning. Furthermore, a police investigation conducted while the suspected security officers continued in office would inevitably be hamstrung.

But suspending the officers, while allowing an unhampered investigation, would leave the organization seriously weakened for months.

Zamir yesterday received a political boost when Minister-without-Portfolio and inner cabinet member, Ezer Weizman said that now that Zamir had ordered a police investigation, it must be allowed to proceed unhampered. He reportedly opined that stopping the investigation would cause the country more harm than allowing it to reach its conclusion.

Commenting on Zamir's remarks at the Knesset, Law Committee Chairman Eli Kulas told reporters that he would seek details from Zamir about these pressures he complained of which he held to be unacceptable. If need be, he said, he would bring the issue up for discussion in the committee.

Kulas told reporters: "Until such time as I hear anything to the contrary, I shall continue to support the attorney-general's stand on the case. Cabinet ministers have come to me (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

'Secrecy' argument disputed

By MARK SEGAL
Post Political Correspondent

Eminent legal sources in Tel Aviv last night disputed the prime minister's argument in the Knesset earlier in the day that the conditions of absolute secrecy characterizing the duties of the General Security Services commander would deny him a proper chance of defending himself in court.

These sources stressed that there was absolutely nothing to prevent any accused person from getting a fair trial under conditions of total secrecy. Israeli law provided the accused person with all the facilities for defending himself, without any risk to state security, by providing that the trial could be held *in camera*.

These legal sources spoke of the unacceptability of the argument that an accused person could not properly defend himself under Israeli law. The sources mention the most famous case in Israeli jurisprudence of a trial held *in camera* — that of "the third man" in the Lavon affair. Grave charges were levelled against him, including that of serving as a double agent, and were heard under maximum secrecy. The public had no access to the trial, and the judges, after suitable security clearance, conducted the case, with the accused man able to mount his defence.

Peres said he was not proposing that the attorney-general's powers be curtailed. Furthermore, he said, the cabinet had made no attempt to decide whether there should be an

investigation, and had merely considered whether such a probe would be good for state security, and whether the GSS head should be suspended even before the investigation had begun.

The first no-confidence motion was presented by Victor Shemtov (Mapam), who asked whether the government stands above the law and whether concealing the truth can strengthen security.

Precisely because the GSS is a secret agency, the government must be particularly strict in holding it to high standards of honesty, truthfulness, and observance of the law, he said. If it is proved in court that these standards were not observed, then those responsible must suffer the consequences, Shemtov said.

Shemtov criticized Justice Minister Yitzhak Moda'i for last week having "publicly and coarsely" attacked the attorney-general. Whereupon Dov Shilansky (Likud Herut) interjected: "Why is it all

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Seven questions are unanswered

Following Prime Minister Peres's response in the Knesset yesterday, the following questions remain unanswered:

- Why did the prime minister, if the stability and integrity of the General Security Services were his prime considerations, not act swiftly, silently and efficiently to limit the damage immediately, before the story became public domain?
- Why did Peres and former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir allow a senior military officer, then Tat-Aluf Yitzhak Mordechai, and by implication the entire IDF, to carry the burden of suspicion for a year-and-a-half when they had received *prima facie* support for Mordechai's protestations of innocence?
- What were the guidelines issued to

ANALYSIS

HIRSH GOODMAN

the censor, why were these inconsistencies and why did censorship totally break down? Was not the attempt to ban publication of those details other than those of a security nature not an attempt to use the censor to protect the political echelons?

• What of the question of the ministerial responsibility of both Peres and Shamir, who as prime ministers were solely responsible for the GSS? Was their attempt to protect GSS head Avraham Shalom not, in the

ultimate analysis, an attempt to protect themselves from censure?

• Why was a man whom the prime minister knew was suspected of involvement in an illicit killing, of obstructing evidence, of forcing resignations from the secret service, allowed to remain in charge of a sensitive security organization?

• Why was Shalom not suspended until either his innocence or guilt of these serious charges had been established?

• What could the prime minister's motive be for protecting the head of the service at the expense of three other top officials? This at the risk of public disclosure that has already resulted in far more damage than any serious internal investigation could possibly have caused.

Arab heads confer in Moscow, Athens

Post Mideast Staff and agencies

Libya's No. 2 Abdel Salam Jalloud and Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam are in Moscow for separate talks. Khaddam arrived yesterday, as Jalloud met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gorbachev's meeting with Jalloud came one day after he warned that any American or Israeli attacks on Syria or the PLO would have "incalculable consequences." Following the talks, he also condemned last April's U.S. raids on Libya.

In Athens, Syrian President Hafiz Assad held talks with Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu, which included a discussion on terrorism. Assad said afterwards that Syria opposed terrorism "because we have

suffered from it." He was apparently referring to last month's bombings in Damascus and other Syrian cities which he blamed on Iraq.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid al-Rifa'i arrived unexpectedly in Athens yesterday and left after meeting with Assad and Papandreu. The visit may have been connected to King Hussein's attempts to arrange a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq.

Egypt's semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported that Assad had plotted to assassinate Yasser Arafat during one of the PLO chairman's trips of Arab countries, and then to replace him with a Damascus-based Palestinian leader. An unnamed Arab government apparently learned of the plot and warned the PLO.

Parties are not rattled

The Knesset debate on four no-confidence motions over the "senior security official" affair showed again that issues of constitutional principle do not seriously rock the parliamentary boat, unless one or the other of the main factions adds political fuel to the flames.

Prime Minister Peres seemed in an irritable and aggressive mood from the outset of the debate, and by the time he went up to reply, he had worked himself into a mood of righteous anger, shouting at the top of his lungs at the opposition and at the media, particularly at Israel Radio.

With all the respect he manifested for Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir, Peres nonetheless slipped in

COMMENT

ASHER WALLFISH

a brief phrase about the fight against terror not being waged by lawyers, uttering this in a flash of angry sarcasm.

Peres's counter-attack against the motions of no-confidence carried much more fire and brimstone than the onslaught of the opposition. He seemed to be losing a much heavier slingshot than he needed to sweep the House along with him.

The issue clearly did not spark the same agitation in the Knesset as it has in the media, which Peres so ferociously belaboured for its alleged kangaroo court tactics against the head of the General Security Services.

Hadassah to pioneer heart transplants here

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Health Ministry yesterday gave Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital the go-ahead to be Israel's pioneer in performing human heart transplants, and asked it to prepare a detailed plan for the complex operation within a month.

Hadassah, one of several hospitals in the country that have claimed to have the technical ability to perform the transplants, says it is prepared to perform them immediately in its cardiology department, headed by Prof. Yosef Borman.

The Health Ministry said that it estimates 10 to 15 operations will be performed a year. But Prof. Borman, who returned last month from seven weeks of taking part in trans-

plant operations at London's Harefield Hospital, said 100 lives could be saved annually in Israel by the technique.

The Health Ministry had originally authorized heart transplants in 1978, but the first operations were unsuccessful and the procedure was dropped.

The operation, of which 1,200 are performed around the world each year, involves talachic problems, as Jewish law considers the moment of death to be the cessation of the heart's functioning, while the medical profession views it as the stopping of brain functioning. The donated heart must be taken while still pumping, although the brain is dead. But Hadassah expects to reach agree-

ment with the rabbis over this point, as the procedure will save lives.

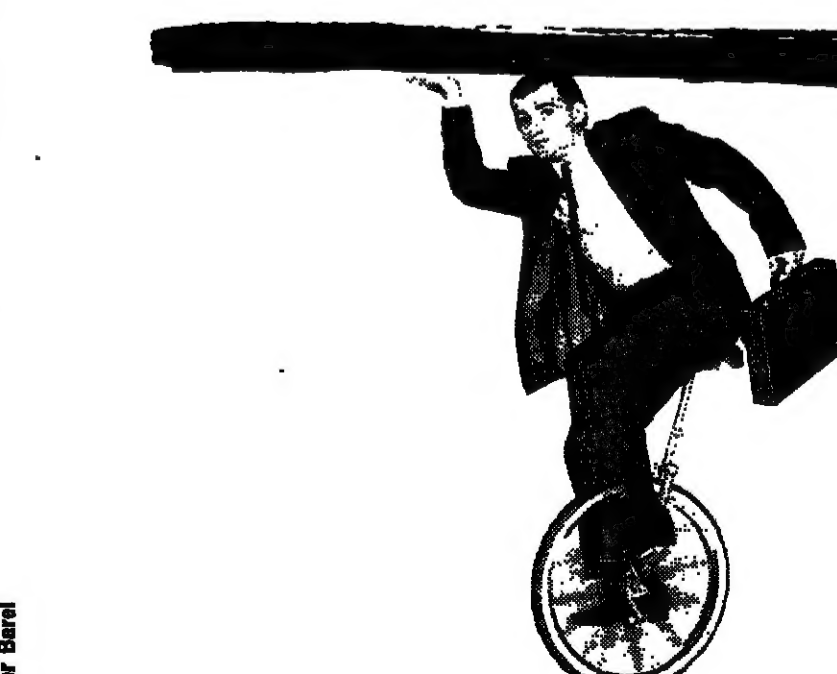
Health Minister Mordechai Gur, after consulting experts, decided to give Hadassah the green light yesterday. Performing the operation here will save the lives of heart patients who would otherwise die because they cannot afford the approximately \$200,000 it costs abroad — and will also save the money of those patients and contributors who rallied to raise the necessary money in the face of death.

The ministry's decision comes too late for Menashe Horosh, a 24-year-old Iranian immigrant and aeronautical engineer at the Technion, who died a few days ago after being unable to raise enough money for a transplant abroad.

It has not yet been determined whether patients and their families will have to finance the heart transplants at Hadassah, or whether they will be paid for by the health funds and the ministry.

Heart transplants are easier to perform than liver transplants, which are now being considered for Israeli hospitals as well. Drugs that minimize rejection of the foreign tissue have reduced the mortality of patients.

Borman worked in Britain alongside Dr. Mashdi Yakoub, an Egyptian cardiologist considered to be Europe's top heart transplant expert. According to statistics abroad, 82 per cent of patients survive the first year, 75 per cent two years and 60 per cent five years or more.



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IMPROVED CURRENT ACCOUNT
(Osh Meshupar)
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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	27.5.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	7	15	17	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	10	15	22	Cloudy
STUTTGART	10	15	18	Cloudy
CHICAGO	12	14	18	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10	15	22	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	11	15	21	Cloudy
GENEVA	11	15	21	Cloudy
HELSINKI	11	15	21	Cloudy
HONGKONG	27	28	31	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	12	16	21	Cloudy
LONDON	12	16	21	Cloudy
MADRID	15	19	24	Cloudy
MONTREAL	12	16	21	Cloudy
NEW YORK	12	16	21	Cloudy
OSLO	10	15	22	Cloudy
PARIS	12	16	21	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	17	21	26	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	10	15	22	Cloudy
TOKYO	12	16	21	Cloudy
TORONTO	12	16	21	Cloudy
VIENNA	10	15	22	Cloudy
ZURICH	10	15	22	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions consult Swissair.

swissair

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	43	13-24	24
Golan	43	13-24	24
Nablus	43	13-24	24
Safed	43	13-24	24
Haifa Port	43	13-24	24
Tiberias	43	13-24	24
Nazareth	43	13-24	24
Afula	43	13-24	24
Shomron	43	13-24	24
Tel Aviv	43	13-24	24
B-G Airport	43	13-24	24
Jericho	43	13-24	24
Gaza	43	13-24	24
Beersheva	43	13-24	24
Eilat	43	13-24	24

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The board of governors of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev this week bestowed an honorary doctorate on Dr. Steven Rosenberg, chief surgeon of the National Cancer Institute outside Washington D.C. Rosenberg, who operated last year on President Reagan for cancer, has pioneered a breakthrough in cancer treatment by harnessing the body's own immunological system to fight malignant growths.

The head of the Fuel Authority, Shimon Gilboa, is to be the guest speaker at today's meeting of the Haifa Rotary Club, in the Nof Hotel, at 1 p.m.

Dr. Roland Kleming, director of the National Prussian Archives in Berlin, and Mr. Fumikatsu Inoue, architect, are to speak on Holocaust memorials in Japan and Germany at the weekly meeting of the Jerusalem Rotary Club at 1 p.m. at the YMCA today.

Marriage

BAROUCH - GOLDBERG. Chai Philippe, son of Simcha and Meir Barouch, of Jerusalem, to Gila, daughter of Hilda and David Goldberg, of Manchester, at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem, yesterday evening.

Navon orders probe into 'Nazi' smear

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER and JOEL REBIBO

Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Navon yesterday ordered an investigation into reports that two Haifa Theatre actors had compared Israel to Nazi Germany while on a recent tour to the U.S.

According to Moshe Bar, the Israel Consul in Chicago, actor Yousuf Abu Warda compared Israel to Nazi Germany in an open forum conducted by TV personality Yaron London. In an interview with the Chicago Tribune actor Doron Tabor said that inside every Israeli there is a little Nazi.

The Haifa Theatre troupe was in Chicago several weeks ago to perform *The Jewish Soul* and *Ghetto* at a festival being held there.

Abu Warda told *The Jerusalem Post* last night: "I do not compare Israel to the Nazis. I do not think that. And if I did, I would not be a member of the Haifa Theatre. I see the role of *Ghetto* as a warning against racism. The Holocaust must serve as a lesson to all nations and not only as a cause of mourning for the Jewish people."

Tabor was not available for comment last night.

The director of the Education Ministry's culture and arts division, Avner Shilo, yesterday sent a letter to the Haifa Theatre management warning them that "freedom of expression has its limits."

The head of the theatre's public council, Avraham Hame'iri, said last night that the theatre will hold serious investigations into the charges.

Yesterday Mayor Arye Gurel also agreed to investigate the allegations at the request of Religious Front chairman, Moshe Bitlithul, who called for the dismissal of the actors if the allegations were proven to be true.

Tabor, who had been asked why he had played the Nazi officer in *Ghetto* as an ordinary human being, had said that he wanted to show that Nazi crimes were committed by ordinary human beings and not by monsters.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Pentagon team due for talks on Lavi fighter's future

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. - A team of Pentagon experts is due in Israel later this week to continue discussions with Israeli officials on the development of the Lavi jet fighter and on Israel's efforts to obtain new diesel-powered submarines and patrol boats.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defence Dov Zakheim will lead the U.S. delegation. It was Zakheim who recently prepared a lengthy and controversial study on the cost-effectiveness of the Lavi.

The inter-agency study concluded that the continued development of the plane will necessarily impede Israel's ability to obtain other badly-needed U.S. military equipment. The study's cost-estimates were higher than those of the Israel Aircraft Industry (IAI), the Lavi's prime contractor.

Zakheim will also discuss with Israeli officials the various options before Israel in connection with its

planned procurement of new submarines and patrol boats.

U.S. officials said that they would not oppose the construction of the submarines at the Haifa Shipyards. But the Israeli Navy reportedly fears that the Haifa facility is not sophisticated enough to build the vessels.

Israeli officials said they would prefer that the submarines be made in the U.S. But the U.S. Navy opposes using limited American shipyard facilities for the construction of non-nuclear submarines.

American Navy officers fear that the opening of a diesel-powered submarine line in the U.S. would automatically put greater pressure on the U.S. Navy to procure non-nuclear submarines.

U.S. officials said that they would try to find some solution to Israel's submarine problem, probably as part of a package deal involving the construction of new patrol boats which would replace Israel's Saar IV ships.

They noted, however, that the

basic disagreement between the Pentagon and Israel over the future of the Lavi was more problematic, given that the Zakheim study had concluded that the prevailing Defence Ministry and IAI cost-estimates of the Lavi were too low.

This point was repeatedly made to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his recent visit to Washington. The Americans are urging Israel, even at this late date, to reconsider the entire Lavi programme. But Israel, so far, is strongly resisting.

Israeli officials have recently complained that some \$50-60 million in U.S. funds, authorized specifically for the Lavi project, are currently being held up for disbursement to Israel by the Pentagon. They have complained that this delay will hurt the Lavi programme.

Pentagon officials said that they were reviewing the allocation of the money "more carefully" until a final decision on the cost-effectiveness of the Lavi had been reached.

Top secret Shin Bet names are revealed

Post Defence Reporter

One of the side-effects of the General Security Services (Shin Bet) scandal is that the normally super-secret names of top serving and former GSS officers have become public knowledge.

First the name of the head of the service, Avraham Shalom, was revealed. Then the names of two former senior officers, Reuven Hazak and Peleg Radai, were made public.

Hazak and Radai, together with another top GSS man, are the officers who reportedly approached Prime Minister Peres several months ago with allegations that Shalom suborned witnesses and tampered with evidence in the investigations

into the killings of two terrorists in 1984.

Peres stood by Shalom's version of the events and declined to act on the allegations. The three officers were then obviously unable to continue working with their boss and they soon found themselves outside the service.

One of three was suspended with full salary, but was later fired. Last Thursday he appealed to the High Court of Justice on the grounds that his dismissal had been improperly motivated. This triggered the reintroduction of the attorney-general into the picture, with the subsequent explosion of the affair in the media.

Radai left the service with full

compensation and now spends much of his time in the U.S. He is involved in an international company run by former secret service personnel from various countries, including former CIA chief William Colby.

Hazak had resigned from the GSS under a former head and served for a year from May 1980 as city manager of Jerusalem. He returned to the GSS when Shalom took over.

Another leading figure in the affair was the service's representative on the original Zorea commission of inquiry into the killings of the terrorists. He allegedly was instrumental, at Shalom's instigation, in putting the investigation on the wrong tracks.

Anger in the army that top officer was 'scapegoat'

Post Defence Staff

Senior officers in the IDF have reacted with anger at revelations indicating that the IDF had been made the scapegoat of the Ashkelon bus-hijacking incident.

At the time, Tat-Aluf Yitzhak Mordechai, then chief paratroop and infantry officer, was said to have been involved in the killing of two terrorists. He was subsequently cleared by a military court.

The General Security Services' version of the events had placed Mordechai under suspicion, that the innocence of GSS agents now appears to have been secured through tampering with evidence - even if this meant implicating Mordechai - has left a deep mark of resentment on many senior military officers.

From the start of the proceedings

against him, Mordechai claimed that he was the victim of a conspiracy. He told friends at the time that senior echelons of the GSS had "ganged up" on him and had fabricated evidence to show that he had handed over the two terrorists in a critical state. Whereas Mordechai's version was his alone, the GSS case was backed by several of its agents, including the head, Avraham Shalom.

What has particularly upset several senior members of the general staff interviewed in recent days is that it now has become apparent that though the premier and senior ministers knew the GSS version was suspect, they did nothing to clear Mordechai's name. Thus Mordechai and the IDF had to continue to bear the stigma of the investigation both prior and subsequent to the officer's acquittal.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(Continued from Page One)

and claimed that information at my disposal is incorrect. But unless I get the facts, how can I be sure of that?"

Earlier in the Law Committee meeting called to mark the replacement of former Justice Minister Moshe Nissim by Yitzhak Moda'i, Nissim said: "You cannot govern a state like Israel if you do not ease the tensions and lower the media profile, especially when the media often publish reports based on total ignorance of the facts."

Nissim said there was and would be no compromise over the maintenance of the rule of law in Israel, and he insisted that security did not clash with the rule of law.

Nissim said the fact that the inner cabinet and the attorney-general had a difference of opinion did not mean that governmental discussion of the problem constituted a violation of the rule of law.

The Alignment Knesset caucus yesterday expressed confidence in Peres's handling of the affair and called for a solution that would be acceptable to both Zamir and the government. Privately, however, several Labour MKs were critical of Peres for having allowed the controversy to attain its present proportions. Likud MKs were virtually unanimous that the government was following the correct path in attempting to stop an investigation.

So far, the affair has not yet assumed a divisive political dimension between the two major parties. Part of the reason is that most MKs seem to have little information beyond what they have learned from the media.

Speculation among politicians focused on the possible implication in the affair of Likud ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Moshe Arens, who were prime minister and defence minister, respectively, in April 1984. That would explain their determination to close ranks with Labour's Peres and Rabin.

In an interview on Educational Television's *Erev Hadash* news programme, Aluf (Res.) Meir

Zora, who had been asked to investigate the original suspicions against the army and GSS men involved in the bus operation, said that it was the GSS's mission to kill the enemies of Israel and "it was only by chance that two of them came out of the fire-fight alive." He said that all the enemies of Israel should know that if they engage in terrorism against Israel, they would be killed.

Wolf Blitzer reports from Washington that *The New York Times* yesterday reported that the continued investigation of GSS head Shalom "would be an extremely messy affair that could lead to a chain of resignations in the intelligence community."

Quoting Israeli political commentators, the newspaper said that the majority of both Labour and Likud cabinet ministers were united against Zamir's plan for an investigation, "so there appeared to be little chance that the affair could topple the government."

The Washington Times, in a report from its correspondent in Israel, Andrew Meisels, quoted an unnamed former GSS official as saying: "The members of the Shin Bet are at war all the time. 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are fighting this war so that most Israelis can at peace, without having to worry about terrorism, without having to worry about car-bombing in the streets, daily kidnapping and assassinations."

"If we come to a situation in which every security man will feel that he has to have a lawyer at his side whenever he acts, this country will become like Lebanon."

Reuters cabled from its Israel office in a story labelled "censored" that "Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir might face legal action in connection with the April 1984 killing of two Palestinian gunmen, authoritative sources said. Prime Minister Shimon Peres might also find himself implicated in the case, though he was not in office at the time, the sources said."

Soviet Jewry body moots trade tempter

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. - The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has drafted a new policy statement that supports for the first time a "step by step" easing of U.S. trade restrictions on the Soviet Union in return for the easing of restrictions on Soviet Jewish emigration and other unspecified actions by Moscow to improve the situation of Soviet Jews. The statement reaffirms the

NCSJ's support for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which since 1974 has denied most-favoured nation trading status to the Soviet Union unless and until it shows that it has significantly liberalized its emigration policy. The NCSJ statement rejects proposals that Jackson-Vanik be repealed in order to stimulate U.S.-Soviet trade relations and encourage the Soviets to liberalize treatment of Jews.



A three-year-old hassid gets his first haircut as part of the observance of Lag Ba'Omer yesterday. (Rahamim Israel)

Local doctors answer Benvenisti criticism

Gaza's hospitals are improving

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Reporter

GAZA. - Patients hospitalized in the Shifa Hospital here may no longer find themselves sharing beds or using dirty sheets, but the general level of the health services is still lower than in Israel proper, Palestinian and Israeli doctors said.

The doctors responsible for the health services in the Gaza Strip spoke yesterday to reporters at a press conference the civil administration convened to rebut some of the criticism levelled in a report on Gaza by Meron Benvenisti's West Bank Data Project.

Benvenisti had criticized the general situation in the Strip as being "below the level of shame" and some of his examples concerned the Shifa Hospital.

The report spoke of rats and cockroaches running around, patients having to share beds and sometimes being placed on dirty - even blood-stained - sheets.

Addressing reporters in the presence of Israeli officials, the hospital's director, Zimmo Galeb, said some of these problems had existed two or three years ago. Rats had

plagued the entire city but that problem had been eradicated. He added that the deficiency in sheets no longer existed and that there was no permanent shortage of medicines.

However, the hospital is incapable of handling difficult cases, and in some cases patients are sent to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer or to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Moreover, patients must wait six to eight months for a hernia operation and up to a year for a tonsillectomy. Though on average only 65 per cent of the beds are occupied, there are nights when all beds in a ward are taken while one or two patients wait to be admitted.

A well-informed source who spoke on condition of anonymity also complained that because of a lack of a proper intensive care unit, casualties in serious road accidents are sometimes driven to Ashkelon, bleeding.

A World Health Organization report said the infant mortality rate in the Strip for 1985 was 33.4 per 1,000 births. This represented a steady drop from the past, but it is still slightly more than double the rate in

Israel. Staff Officer for Health Nimrod Shushan said that both the standard of living in the Strip and the level of hospital services "have not reached those of Israel, and that partly influences the rate of child mortality."

A visit to the hospital gave an uneven picture. Workers were seen cleaning the wards, sheets appeared clean - even in wards to which the group of reporters were not taken - and some were fairly new. There were empty beds in many wards and workers and nurses interviewed without management's knowledge said there were no more rats.

The impressive new \$4m. maternity ward delivers some 600 to 700 babies a month, of which 30 to 40 are Caesarean sections. There is also a unit for treating premature babies.

However, a visit to the burn section showed walls already black from negligence. People waiting at the entrance to the X-ray rooms squatted on the floor rather than sitting on backless benches in another shabby room. And in one department cats walked through the corridor and into rooms.

Soviets punish defiant Begun for refusing to remove 'kippa'

By SARAH KONIG

Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. - Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun is being subjected to punitive measures in prison because of his refusal to remove his skullcap, according to Soviet Jewry activists in Jerusalem who spoke with his wife by telephone this week. Begun says that as a religious Jew he will not go bareheaded, no matter what the cost to himself.

Begun, the foremost Hebrew teacher in the Soviet Union and the Zionist activist put on trial more times than any other, was recently released from a hospital and returned to the notorious Chistopol prison. He had been hospitalized for several weeks due to a heart condition.

Both the reports of pressures for his resignation; the demand for his suspension and the political resistance to both, figures prominently in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot*.

The censor yesterday deleted most of *The Post's* second front-page story relating to the appeal to the High Court of Justice by a senior ex-GSS officer. The censor specifically deleted the fact that Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir had informed the prime minister that he refused to present the government's case in response to the court order unless the whole affair was properly investigated. Many other facts concerning the High Court action, which sparked the publication of the affair, were also blue-pencilled by the censor.

Yesterday's issue of *Davar* carried this information in its main headline.

What emerges is, at the least, a picture of inconsistency between the military censor's offices in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Parents of hijack victim 'distressed'

The parents of soldier Iris Portu-

guese, who was killed in the April 1984 Tel Aviv-Ashkelon bus hijacking, yesterday made an impassioned plea for an end to the renewed publicity surrounding the incident.

"I don't see why people are talking about the law when terrorists launch attacks intending to kill indiscriminately," Iris's mother said yesterday.

The soldier's parents were particularly distressed by the resurgence of reports that Iris might have been killed by Israeli bullets. (Itim)

We deeply mourn the sudden passing of

DR. SOLOMON BURACK

The funeral will take place Wednesday evening, May 28, at 8:30 p.m. at the Sanhedria Jerusalem cemetery.

The Family

PERES DENIES

(Continued from Page One)

right for the attorney-general to publicly criticize the entire Knesset (log not having passed the anti-racism bill last week), but forbidden for the minister of justice to publicly criticize the attorney-general?"

Goula Cohen (Shefiya) said that the GSS chief should appear before an inquiry commission not just as an accused but as an accuser. If he really was guilty of twisting evidence, and he does not belittle the gravity of such an act, "He should explain that, the GSS together with other bodies are fighting day and night against a cruel neo-Nazi enemy. War is war, and such an enemy cannot be fought with kid gloves. If you want us to fight with our hands and feet in chains, and judge us as you judge the enemy, that's fine with us. From now on, instead of being concerned about the country's skin and that of you gentlemen, each one of us will look after his own skin."

Cohen said the problem with Zamir was that the "discretion" he exercises, regarding when to prosecute and when not to, is based on his personal world-view. His discretion led him not to act against the release of 1,030 terrorists, she said. At that time he acquiesced in the security considerations of the government; she said, even though judicial proceedings were then in progress against three of those released. "And I didn't see even one of the 'bleeding hearts' here get up and present a no-confidence motion."

Meir Wilner (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) said that security must not be based on lies and concealment of the truth from the public and the Knesset. The question, he said, was whether it is permissible to murder captives. If two Israeli captives were murdered, we would shout: Barbarians! Nazis!

Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) said that the suspicion must be investigated thoroughly and the truth revealed; was there or was there not an attempt to suborn witnesses? The question today was not who did or didn't kill the two terrorists, but whether there was a conspiracy to twist the evidence, and whether such a conspiracy could have thrown the blame on an innocent person.

"I personally want to know whether I should go to Aluf Yitzhak Mordechai and beg his pardon," Sarid said.

התקופה הזו

Unveiling of the tombstone of our dear husband and father

CHAIM ELIEZER (LEV) GLUCK

will be held today, Wednesday, 19 Iyar, 5746 (May 29, 1986) at 5 p.m. at Mt. Olives cemetery (near Inter-Continental Hotel). Bus will leave from the Matisersdorf Synagogue plaza, Jerusalem at 4:30 p.m. and will also pick up passengers near the Apirion Hall, Yirmiyahu cor. Eli Hacohen streets.

The Family

Thatcher a hit in her constituency's 'twin' town

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Thousands of children waving in the Israeli and British flags, along with hundreds of adults, yesterday lined Ramat Gan's main streets, waiting for the brief visit at noon of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The elders of Ramat Gan could not remember quite such an air of festive anticipation, nor could they remember when last the streets on which scores of municipal workers had laboured for days, had been so clean.

From the morning hours, the town's flag-bedecked main streets were closed to traffic while mounted police, border police and security guards kept order. Loudspeakers blared out military marches and popular songs, and at the expected hour of arrival the city's youth

orchestra began playing marches near the Rabin Square, where a large stage decked with Union Jack and Israeli flags had been built.

The "Iron Lady" could not have been warmer than here, in the twin-city of Finchley-Barnett, Thatcher's constituency. She told Ramat Gan's residents that apart from this special relationship, the British ambassador to Israel had resided in Ramat Gan since Israel's independence.

"I therefore wanted to make a special visit to Ramat Gan and I am so happy that I came and received such a wonderful welcome."

"I shall never forget my visit to Israel and to Ramat Gan. They both symbolize the relations and understanding between Israel and Britain. Long may this feeling live and we shall do everything within our power to ensure that it does. God Bless

you," Thatcher declared. The crowd stood and applauded.

Ramat Gan Mayor Uri Amit presented his guest with a copper rocket shell with silver ornaments made by the Bezalel Academy of Arts. Thatcher said she would keep the shell, used by Gen. Allenby in his 1917 campaign against the Turks, in her study in No. 10 Downing Street.

On her recent 60th birthday, Thatcher was told the Ramat Gan-Finchley friendship Society had planted 60 trees in her honour in a forest near Jerusalem.

Ramat Gan will also present Thatcher with a kid, a deer and a lion—the symbols of Finchley-Barnett. Amit said he would give Thatcher a letter from the parents of missing Ramat Gan soldier Yehuda Katz and ask her to act among Arab

leaders on behalf of Katz and other missing Israeli soldiers.

Before leaving the stage, Thatcher returned once more to the podium to say, in Hebrew, *Toda Raba*. As she descended, pandemonium erupted. The crowds, until now fairly orderly, surged enthusiastically into the street after her, with the police and security guards struggling to keep order.

After Thatcher departed in her armoured limousine on her way to the Ben-Gurion Airport, the crowds dispersed. All the blooming red, pink, orange and yellow flowers which had brightened the entrance to City Hall, had been trampled to the ground by the crowd. "The residents loved her. That's the important thing. The flowers are a small price to pay for such a successful visit," a municipal spokesman said.

DOCUMENT

'Closing historical circle'

The following comments were among those made by Prime Minister Shimon Peres Monday evening at a Knesset ceremony in honour of visiting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher:

Madame Prime Minister: I had the chance today to accompany Mrs. Thatcher to the Boker Ashkelon and the Weizmann Institute. When the leader of Great Britain stood by the grave of David Ben-Gurion I felt that one historical circle had been closed and another historical chapter was being opened.

I felt that history was touching upon history; a people was meeting a people... History touched history because there has been a most awesome accounting between the Jewish people and the British people since Oliver Cromwell was among the first in Europe to recognize the equal rights of the Jewish people... It is also no simple thing that a man like Benjamin Disraeli... became a leader who made his mark in that great land despite his being a Jew.

A people touching a people; what Cyrus did at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, Lord Balfour did in the twentieth century... by granting legitimacy to the Zionist enterprise in a Western world in which Great Britain was beyond all doubt the prevailing power.

We remember not only the Balfour Declaration, but also Lord Balfour's visit to Jerusalem. We are among the few people who have had a university before they had a state. And since then, many and great people, including Winston Churchill and other great leaders have stood by the Jewish people, by the Zionist idea, and by the State of Israel.

There is no point in denying that there have also been moments of confrontations, hours of disagreement, and even days of war. I hope that Mrs. Thatcher will accept my remarks in a good spirit if I say that if one has to fight someone, it is best to fight Great Britain. There is something about Britain, that even in war, the memories that remain over a historical remove are not so bitter... Today these memories are largely on the positive side of the ledger, not only a people, not only history, but a national point of view touching another national point of view. In our Knesset, for example, we are deeply indebted to the island of humanity where, nearly a millennium ago, the principle of parliamentary control over government was born.

And finally, we may agree, and we may disagree. I want to say that I am sure, that we agree very much on the desire to see a peaceful Middle East, a Middle East in which Jews, Arabs, and Druse, Christians and Moslems live without enmity, not by the sword, but in peace. And even if we do not always agree on the methods, we do not belittle the goodwill that the British prime minister brings to this region in an effort to contribute to the resumption of the peace process in our midst.

Madame, you represent a nation toward which we have never been apathetic; whose contribution to our lives as a nation and as members of the Jewish people we will never forget. I must also say that we have a great deal of respect for your courage, your leadership, and your efforts to put Great Britain on its feet and take its place in the world—without an empire, but with an outlook. We respect the leadership, we remember the past, we are partners for the future. May your presence among us be blessed.

Eight months in jail for extorting NIS 3

HAIFA (Itim). — An Acre man was sentenced yesterday to eight months in jail, with a further ten months suspended, for extorting NIS 3.

The District Court here heard that Eliahu Edri, 24, forced a customer at Acre's Exodus Cafe into the cafe's bathroom and made him hand over the contents of his pockets — NIS 3. Later, realizing that NIS 3 would not get him very far, Edri returned the money to the customer.

In passing sentence, Judge Eliahu Cohen rejected Edri's defence that he had only been asking for a loan.

Mail averages 3.5 days

Letters took an average of 3.5 days to reach their destinations inside the country in April, according to the Postal Service.

This is an improvement over last April's 3.8 days, but a decline from this March's 3.4 days.



Police who provided security for British Prime Minister Thatcher's visit, throw their hats in the air and heave a collective sigh of relief upon Mrs. Thatcher's departure from Jerusalem, yesterday.

Betar sink Shimshon to lift the State Cup

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. — Goals by Eli Ohana and Uri Malmilian gave Betar Jerusalem the State Cup for the second year in succession, with a well-deserved 2-1 victory in extra time over Shimshon Tel Aviv.

President Herzog presented Betar captain Hanan Azulai with the cup to the cheers of 20,000 fans at the Ramat Gan stadium.

It was the fourth time that Betar had won the cup in the past ten years. For the Tel Aviv Yeminite quarter club it was a second disappointing appearance in the cup final; 20 years ago when they were beaten by Hapoel Haifa.

The first half of yesterday's match was slow, notable only for a terrible miss by Ohana. Malmilian fired a perfect pass across the Shimshon penalty area to find Ohana alone with an open goal, but from three metres out the striker ballooned the ball over the bar.

The game came to life when, early

in the second half, Sami Malka came on in place of Meir Kadosh. In the 60th minute, the fresh player slammed a hard shot at goal which Shimshon goalkeeper Freddie Lessner could only parry. Ohana was on hand to slot the rebound into the roof of the net.

Shimshon then threw everyone into the attack. But veteran strikers Vicky Perez and Gideon Damti were too slow to trouble the Betar defenders. In the 75th minute Perez missed a golden chance to level, when he was caught daydreaming before an open goal.

Shimshon finally got back on terms in the 80th minute, when Ephraim Arviv collected a Perez header and coolly placed his shot in the Betar net.

The game went into extra time, and just before the end of the first period, Malmilian ran into a glorious long pass from Ya'acov Schwartz to shoot the winning goal from 10 metres.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Tomb to be restored, beggars to be removed

TIBERIAS (Itim). — An anonymous donor from abroad has given \$700,000 for refurbishing the tomb here of Rabbi Meir Ba'al Henech, on condition the city remove beggars from the site.

Mayor Yigal Bibi, who says he has agreed, added that the family donating the money wants to remain anonymous because of its business dealings in the Arab world.

Ramle man charged with bigamy

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Elrahimim Ya'acov, 34, from Ramle, was charged with bigamy yesterday in the district court here.

The charge sheet stated that Ya'acov, who had been married to Rosa since September 1983, got married again in April 1985 to Koshia Yoshibaiba. This ceremony took place in the bomb shelter of a building, the charge sheet stated.

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Guitarist Larry Coryell in concert in Israel

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jazz guitarist Larry Coryell and his band got on the road here this week, opening Chick Corea's shows at Caserta on Saturday night and at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool next Monday.

Coryell, supported by Bob Moses and Miroslav Vitous, is also headlining his own shows at Jerusalem's Gerard Behar Centre on Sunday afternoon, at Tel Aviv University Students' Day that same evening, and at Tzavta Tel Aviv, in a jam session with local jazz musicians, next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, tickets are already on sale for British band Jethro Tull's concert on June 30 at Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park. Tull, a mildly eccentric bunch who have been playing together for over 15 years, are to be supported by the young British group Simply Red.

Day-time snooze for children who took pills

TIBERIAS (Itim). — Five Ethiopian children between four and eight were taken to hospital yesterday, having fallen asleep after taking an assortment of pills.

"We thought they were sweets," the children explained on waking up at Porish hospital here.

The children found the pills in one of the rooms of the absorption centre where they live. Their mothers were alerted by the unusual sight of the children fast asleep at 11 in the morning.

Porish doctors said the children appeared to have taken at least five kinds of tablets against various chronic illnesses.

Herzog to Reform Jews: Get into politics

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The recognition of Reform Judaism in Israel depends on reforming the electoral process, President Herzog told a delegation of U.S. Reform Jews this week.

Terming Herzog's evaluation the one useful assessment that the delegation had received from Israeli leaders, Charles Rothchild Jr., chairman of the board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, admitted that his group has encountered obstacles and frustrations here.

The group had also called on Prime Minister Peres, Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Rothchild said these men had repeated their advice that more Reform Jews come to Israel, a solution which he rejects out of hand. If one followed that logic, he said, Jews throughout the Diaspora would always remain second- and third-class citizens because they were only a small part of the population in their host countries.

Herzog, on the other hand, told

the group that Reform Jews already living in Israel, including on Reform kibbutzim, should involve themselves in the political process here, to change the system which gives proportional representation even to small groups. Until then, the president said, not just the Reform movement, but other groups within society would continue to suffer.

Rothchild termed Herzog's comments "positive and helpful," providing a new insight.

In the U.S., Rothchild said, Reform Jews were struggling against the Haredi movement. The followers of the Lubavitcher Rebbe had promised the Brooklyn rabbi a change in Israel's "Who is a Jew" law for the latter's 80th birthday, Rothchild said.

Rothchild added that his own movement was embarking on a campaign to inform Reform Jews "What Lubavitch stands for," stressing Habad's "paid professional lobbies in the Knesset to change the Law of Return."

The Reform campaign will also point out that Habad does not subscribe to the separation of church

and state in the U.S., a principle which the Reform movement considers highly important. And yet, Rothchild said, much of the funding for the Habad hassidim comes from Reform Jews.

At the same time, the Reform bodies are conducting a drive for allocations for their programmes and institutions in Israel, "commensurate with the support our people in the U.S. give to UJA. The majority of the funds come from the non-Orthodox, while the majority of the funding goes to Orthodox institutions," Rothchild said.

But the Reform movement was not considering any alternative appeal at this time. "We prefer to work within the system," he said.

This week, in two separate ceremonies, the members of the group attended the dedication of dormitories for American students at Kibbutz Tzor'a and the new communal settlement at Har Halutz, in the Galilee mountains between Carmel and Ma'alot. The latter settlement now has 11 families from the U.S. Reform movement and aims at 180.

The festival's trickiest juggling act

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Andre Touboul is the festival juggler. He juggles pipes and hammers and curtains and boxes, and he juggles time and people and whims and crises.

As head of the technical department of the Jerusalem Theatre, which this year became a multi-stage performing arts complex, Touboul deals with problems from the mundane, through the sublime, to the ridiculous.

He runs the workshop where props are built; a warehouse where stage implements as simple as pipes and as complex as a lighting computer are kept. His home, for the three weeks of the festival, is in the wings of the stages. Look for Andre in the theatre complex and you may find him searching behind the boxed bases of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, standing like modern mummies in the corner, for a pipe with a small enough diameter to slip through the hem of a piece of muslin 15 metres wide and 10 metres tall.



Go find, on 48 hours' notice, 100 kilos of the unperfumed talcum powder with which some dancers must cover themselves several times during each of their half dozen performances. Touboul has done it, sending his crews to every pharmacist between here and Tel Aviv, collecting half a kilo here, a kilo there.

Need to find a few dozen sheep and cow carcasses, and a freezer to keep them in, for a performance about a middle-aged woman butcher and her unhappy lover? Touboul's your man. He'll go out to the Shufat slaughterhouse, and negotiate amid the groaning cows and weeping sheep. You need a dozen mirrors for a dressing room in a cave? See Andre.

For the three weeks of the festival, Touboul has taken on more than a dozen extra hands, who do everything from searching for good props to shipping them. The biggest problem is timing.

The technical crew, led by the technical manager of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane and Company dance troupe, spent 13 hours, working from just before midnight on Monday through Tuesday noon, to prepare the lights and sets for the 90-minute performance of the modern dance group. A company like Jones' and Zane travels through Europe, Asia and America, and technical manager Casey McClellan carries the bible — well, actually a sort of Bantz — of travelling theatre groups. It's called *Theaterwords*, and it is a dictionary of all the

technical language of the theatre backstage and abovestage, in nine different languages, with pictures for countries where none of the nine work.

In Jerusalem this week, McClellan hasn't had to use the book. And to a large degree that's the doing of the wiry, balding Touboul.

The theatre complex is not exactly a beehive of activity — at least not in the lobbies or even on many of the stages — during the day. But go backstage, to the shadowy wings, and suddenly you begin to notice people. This one is wielding a hammer; that one is working a broom. This one is at a computer terminal typing in lighting cues, while that one is testing sound levels. The auditoriums are empty. The bustle is all about those 12 hours needed to set up for a 90-minute performance. And Andre is the one they turn to with a question, a crisis, an artistic whim.

NIS 500 in candles is needed for a performance of a 12th century musical, but the Ensemble for Early Music is performing, appropriately, in the outdoor amphitheatre of the Citadel and the wind will put out the candles. Andre thinks for a few minutes, and suggests some torches. He happens to have some left over from a performance in the theatre last year.

He's been sleeping, if he's lucky, four hours a night. He says he manages to get home, but one of his workers says that by the middle of next week, when the halfway mark is reached and the troupes are coming in and out of the theatre "like the airport the day before Pessah," Andre will use a cot he has stashed away in his bedroom.

He won't get to see many of the performances from the plush seats in the auditorium. He has a backstage

Perservance gets action on IDF chaplain

TEL AVIV. — A Bezek telephonist, Ehud Spiegel, appears to have overcome army and police indifference to a circular by the IDF chaplain in the West Bank calling for the total destruction of "the Amalekite nation." Spiegel has fought a determined one-man battle to get the police to commit themselves to launch an inquiry.

The circular had been written in a way which convinced soldiers who read it that it was a reference to the Arabs, though its writer, Rav Seren Shmuel Derlich, did not mention them by name and later insisted he did not have the Arabs in mind. Derlich later claimed he had meant the Germans.

In the four-page circular, filled with biblical quotations and distributed among the troops, Derlich

wrote that "we are ordered to erase (Amalek's) name and all that is even remotely connected with the Amalekite nation."

King Saul had had a "golden opportunity" to do so but he spared the women, children and their king so he "was punished," lost his throne and died in battle, Derlich wrote.

The chaplain then noted that in the past generation the Amalekite enemy has appeared "in the form of the German nation" and today Amalek "is lying in ambush for us waiting for the right moment to... destroy us."

The head of the civil administration in Judea and Samaria, Tzvi Elimelech Shalev, and chief education officer Tzvi Elimelech Dagan had forwarded the circular to superiors but the latter dropped the mat-

ter. The IDF spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* the army did not intend to make "much ado about nothing."

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* earlier this week Ehud Spiegel of Ramat Gan said he had gone to the Bethlehem police to file a complaint against Derlich. An investigator named Baruch Agami had refused to register the complaint and addressed him in a tone suggesting he, Spiegel, was crazy. "Don't you have anything better to do," Agami reportedly asked.

Spiegel then went to the Jerusalem police and met with a similar response.

Finally, he wrote Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, who instructed police to "examine the matter."

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Tension at East-West Berlin border

Allies defy E. Germans on passports

EAST BERLIN (Reuters) - Western allied diplomats passed through border points to West Berlin yesterday in defiance of new East German directives demanding a show of passports, and allied sources showed concern for a quick solution to tensions.

One allied source here said U.S., British and French officials had considered a series of possible responses to the directive, in force since Monday. These included, as a possible last resort, a break in diplomatic relations.

But the U.S. yesterday denied it was considering breaking diplomatic relations with East Germany over the new passport regulations on the East-West Berlin border.

A statement issued by the U.S. embassy in Bonn said the report from East Berlin was inaccurate.

Senior allied officials in Bonn said there had been no consultations between western governments on such a step and that the western powers were a long way from even considering such a retaliatory move.

West German government sources said they were surprised by

the reports and were aware of no discussion about the possibility of breaking diplomatic links.

East Germany said yesterday its passport restrictions on western diplomats were meant to satisfy the West's demands for anti-terrorist measures.

An East German Foreign Ministry spokesman said the restrictions were linked "to demands by western countries for East German measures against terrorism."

The allied officials said discussions on the border problem had so far been held by "medium-level officials" in Berlin and that examination of possible retaliatory moves had not been carried out at a senior level.

"Breaking relations is of course a theoretical option, but it is very far from serious consideration now. Nothing so apocalyptic has been discussed up to now," one official said.

Earlier yesterday East German border guards allowed British, U.S. and French diplomats to cross with red diplomatic cards but warned that only passports would be accepted in future.

A number of other Nato diplo-

mats had already been turned back at the border after refusing to show passports.

The Bonn ambassadors of the U.S., Britain and France are also governors of the three sectors of West Berlin controlled by the World War Two allies. Their embassies in the West German capital maintain a so-called Bonn group which discusses Berlin problems.

The allied officials said there would be several more meetings between western officials in Berlin and further contacts with the Soviet Union before any response was considered to the new rules.

The western allies see the new passport regulations as a possible bid by East Germany to establish the East-West-Berlin border as an international frontier.

The three western powers insist that the whole of Berlin is still under occupied status under agreements drawn up after the war and treat East Berlin as the Soviet sector of the city.

They have refused to deal directly with East Germany on the issue and are discussing it instead with Soviet officials.



Survivors huddled Monday on the capsized ferry Shamia

Bangladesh death toll may reach 600

DACCA - Rescue workers using fishing nets have retrieved more than 200 bodies after a ferry capsized during a storm, in what appeared to be Bangladesh's worst river disaster. Up to 600 people were feared dead.

Divers on crane-fitted ships were struggling yesterday to salvage the double-decker ferry Shamia, which overturned in the Meghna River 125 km south of here on Sunday night with at least 1,000 people aboard, as reported in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*. One official at Bhola, the site of the accident, feared the death toll

may be 600, and he said barely 400 people managed to reach the shore.

Officials reported that 69 bodies were recovered yesterday, bringing the official count to 149, but many bodies were still trapped inside the sunken vessel.

Additional scores are thought to have been swept downstream by strong currents and 100km-per-hour winds that delayed rescue operations for hours, an official said.

The government has asked relatives to identify and collect bodies

piled on the river bank. Witnesses said many bodies were already rotting under the scorching sun.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has fired several navigation officers, banned the movement of double-decker river ferries and ordered checks on their structural design. It is the second river disaster in Bangladesh this year.

At least 200 people were killed when another double-decker sank in the Shitalakha near Dacca on April 21. (Reuters, AP)

SPORTS

Fine win for Amos Mansdorf

Post Sports Staff
Amos Mansdorf confirmed his continuing good form on the international tennis circuit with a convincing first round victory in the French Open over Czech Davis Cup racket Favel Slozil. The young Israeli had to steel himself before winning the opening set at 7-5, he slipped somewhat and dropped the second at 2-6 but then came up strongly to win in four sets 6-2, 6-4.

Slozil is ranked 86 in the world and Mansdorf 74. Other men's winners yesterday included Fred McEnroe who beat sixth-seeded Swede Joakim Nyström in four easy sets, Frenchman Henri Leconte and Guy Forget, Andrei Ganev of Ecuador and Anders Jarryd of Sweden.

Martina in a hurry

PARIS (AP) - Top-seeded Martina Navratilova rushed past Italy's Sandra Cecchini, while Australia's Paul McNamee upset sixth-seeded Swede Joakim Nyström in the first round of the French Open yesterday.

Navratilova took just over one hour to beat Cecchini 6-3, 6-3, breaking the Italian's serve to win the match. So overwhelming was Navratilova's performance that, when she missed a shot, Cecchini muttered: "She's not a god."

Afterwards, Martina took a swipe at the American media. "I wish someone had asked me about it," she said, referring to her crying after losing to Steffi Graf in the final of a women's tournament in Berlin eight days ago.

"I don't cry over losing a match," the world's top-ranked player said. "You didn't see me cry last year when I lost in the French final to Chris. Did you?"

The reason for the tears, she said, was that her family was not together. "My parents were watching the match on television in Prague because they weren't allowed to go to Berlin. My sister, Jane, watched on television in Bonn because she wasn't allowed to go to Berlin. My whole family was within 500 miles of each other and we couldn't be together."

Cup problems

LISBON (Reuters) - Portugal's government yesterday attacked a protest over pay by the country's World Cup players as unsporting, ill-timed and ungrateful, and appealed to them to assume their responsibilities as sportsmen and professionals.

The 22 players in Mexico preparing for Saturday's opening of the Mundial are demanding improved daily allowances and bonuses for World Cup matches and on Sunday refused to play a practice game in Montevideo to back their claims.

With the World Cup opening only a few days off other countries have other favourites. Several title favourites, including Brazil, France, Uruguay and England, are trying to get key players fit for the grueling month-long tournament.

Experienced Celtics utilize Rockets fouls

BOSTON (Reuters) - The Boston Celtics made experience pay off as they routed away in the second half to beat the young Houston Rockets 112-100 in the first game of the National Basketball Association best-of-seven championship final.

The turning point came with a little less than five minutes remaining in the third quarter when Nigerian superstar 23-year-old Akeem Olatunji of the Rockets was assessed his fifth foul and was pulled from the game.

The Celtics, who were leading by five at the time of Olatunji's departure, ran the lead up to 23 by the end of the quarter and as high as 21 in the fourth quarter.

Olatunji returned in the fourth quarter but by then the Celtics, showing the experience that allowed them to complete a league-best 67-15 record during the regular season, had established control.

The Celtics' big front line scored easily - 23 for Centre Robert Parish and 21 each for forwards Kevin McHale and Larry Bird.

For Houston, Olatunji finished with 33 points but the other half of the "Twin Towers," Ralph Sampson, missed nearly 20 minutes of the first half because of foot troubles of his own.

Angels leave New York in style

NEW YORK (AP) - Rookie Wally Joyner made sure the California Angels left New York on a positive note. Joyner hit his major league-leading 16th homer, a two-run shot with two outs in the ninth inning that rallied the Angels past New York 3-7, in Monday's action. California broke a five-game losing streak and ended the Yankees' five-game winning string.

Joyner connected for his game-winning homer after reliever Dave Righetti, 4-2, retired the first two California batters in the ninth on two strikes before Brian Downing singled. Joyner led off the first pitch before homering into the right-field corner.

In other American League games, Boston beat Cleveland 5-3, Minnesota pounded Toronto 9-4, Detroit got out ahead 5-4 in 10 innings, Seattle beat off Baltimore 7-6, Milwaukee blanked Kansas City 4-0 and Texas trounced Chicago 7-2.

In National League games, Atlanta beat Philadelphia 5-4, Chicago defeated Cleveland 9-6, Houston beat St. Louis 4-1 and San Diego outlasted Montreal 9-4.

Doron v. Barnard

By JACK LEON
RAMAT HASHARON - Israel's second-ranking woman tennis player Sagit Doron, 21, today faces top South African junior Linda Barnard, 17, in the Masters singles final of the Vanessa Phillips Women's Tennis Association satellite circuit at the ITT courts here.

Barnard has already won two of the three tournaments on the \$20,000 circuit and finished as runner-up in the other, but the Israeli had limited access until now.

With a scintillating display of all-court tennis, unseeded Doron scored only an hour for her 6-2, 6-3 semi-final victory over third-seeded South African Patti Ross. No. 1 seed Barnard was rather more extended in her 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 triumph against Swedish-born Czech Michela Paencova, who was also unseeded in the 16-draw.

The all-conquering Barnard and her partner Ross will be going for their third doubles title on the circuit when they meet Israeli champion Hana Berger in the doubles final. Play starts today at 2 p.m.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Fired Thai army leader pledges loyalty

BANGKOK - Thailand's civilian prime minister yesterday dismissed the commander of the politically powerful army, sparking rumours of an imminent coup.

But Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek, 60, defused tension when he said he accepted the order and pledged loyalty to King Bhumibol Adul Yadej. No official reason was given for his dismissal by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda. But a government spokesman suggested he was fired for meddling in politics and because he may have planned to interfere in the July 27 general elections.

Arthit has publicly challenged Prem on a number of occasions, and is widely regarded as coveting the prime ministership. Earlier this month, Prem dissolved the parliament and called early general elections after the government lost a vote which Arthit is rumoured to have manipulated.

Tatum O'Neal gives birth to McEnroe's son

SANTA MONICA (AP) - Actress Tatum O'Neal has given birth to tennis star John McEnroe's son, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday. The 3.9kg. boy was born Friday, and both mother and baby went home Monday in good health, the spokeswoman said. She didn't know the baby's name.

The couple at first denied rumours that O'Neal, 22, the daughter of actor Ryan O'Neal, was pregnant. But in an interview in December, McEnroe, 27, acknowledged the pregnancy and said the couple planned to marry.

"I'm proud of it," he said of the impending birth.

He said mother and baby would travel with him on the tennis circuit. "I'm not going to leave them."

Soviet rock stars to sing for Chernobyl

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Top Soviet pop stars are giving a concert at a Moscow stadium on Friday to raise money for relief work connected to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, theatre officials said yesterday.

The country's best-known singer, Alla Pugachova, and rock band Avto-graph are among seven acts scheduled to appear at the unprecedented show at the northern Moscow Olympic Stadium.

The event is called "Account No. 904," a reference to a national fund set up last week for citizens to contribute to relief work for the community affected by the April 26 disaster.

87-year-old woman batters purse-snatcher

NEW YORK (AP) - An 87-year-old woman fought off a bicycle-riding purse-snatcher with an umbrella and the help of a passerby, police said. Vera Tucker was walking in Manhattan's fashionable East Side Monday when a man on a bicycle grabbed her purse, said Sgt. John Venetucci.

The woman began hitting the man with her umbrella, knocking him off his bicycle. Then Gregory Culey, 33, intervened.

"I saw this elderly woman whipping a man," Culey said. "I wouldn't like to have been him. The umbrella had a good bend."

Culey wrestled the man to the ground, and the man was arrested after a brief scuffle with a police officer.

Jose Ramos, 38, was charged with robbery, resisting arrest and criminal possession of stolen property.

Paris inmate was sprung by 'flying' wife

PARIS (Reuters) - French police said yesterday the woman helicopter pilot who plucked Michel Vaujour from the roof of Paris's Sante prison was the wife of the convicted gangster.

They said she learned to fly and trained for nine months under an assumed name to prepare for Monday's commando-style operation.

Despite a massive hunt, police have found no trace of Vaujour, 35, his wife Nadine Bourgain, 32, or an unidentified male accomplice in the helicopter. The white Alouette helicopter, found abandoned in a nearby football field, was hired in the name of Lena Rigon, a false identity which police say Vaujour's wife used to gain a flying licence.

Guy Croissard, a helicopter instructor, described "Lena Rigon" as a determined pupil who passed her test in record time. She passed her test last September on the first attempt with 58 points out of 60 in the technical exam.

MOBY DICK - A protest ship named Moby Dick will set out in pursuit of Norway's whaling fleet on Friday in a bid to disrupt the hunt for minke whales, the environmentalist group Greenpeace said yesterday in Hamburg.

BARRE - Somali President Siad Barre, under treatment at the Riyadh Military Hospital for injuries suffered in a car accident in Somalia last week, was in a "satisfactory condition" yesterday, the official Saudi press agency reported.

Organ shortage is main transplant problem

CHICAGO (AP) - Organ-transplant experts are seeking remedies to what they say is the source of all the newly emerging legal and ethical problems they face - a shortage of donor organs.

Because the number of donor organs has failed to keep pace with the rapidly expanding field, controversy has arisen over who gets a donor organ and why.

At issue are reports of wealthy patients being shoved ahead of others on the priority list. American organs being exported while the waiting list in the U.S. remains long, and kidneys being sold overseas by poor people willing to sacrifice one of their two kidneys.

The latest attack came this month after the death of a nine-month-old

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THE AMERICAN Jewish Committee, now celebrating its 80th anniversary, has long been viewed by many as the quintessence of the American Jewish establishment, a group of "Our Crowd" bluebloods given to genteel parlour discussions of the Jewish and human conditions, but leery of social or political activities that would be perceived as unnecessarily pushy or vulgar.

According to executive director David Gordis, 45, the old AJC image is years out of date, and camouflages the reality of a new organization moving forward on a vigorous and assertive course with a forward-looking coherent ideology.

Gordis explained: "We are no longer a self-appointed leadership group of German Jews, but are now a more broad-based organization, and are people who cannot be differentiated in terms of their backgrounds from those of any other of the national organizations. The way I view our present role is as something akin to a movement as opposed to simply an organization with a complex of individual activities."

And the AJC makes "certain ideological assumptions, based on a rather optimistic assessment of Jewish existence in the United States."

Gordis stated emphatically, "We do not see the non-Jewish world as arrayed against the Jewish community. We don't think that anti-Semitism has disappeared by any means, but we see ourselves as full participants in American life. It is for this reason that we put a great emphasis on forming interrelationships with the many other ethnic and religious groups that make up America."

The AJC sees Israel as a unique centre of Jewish life, and without doubt the most prominent feature on the landscape of contemporary Jewish life. But that doesn't mean that other centres are secondary in importance.

Gordis said he emphatically does not regret the large number and diversity of Jewish organizations. "We think the very diversity in organizational structure is an appropriate reflection of pluralism within the Jewish community. We don't argue for reduction in the number of organizations, but for coordination between the groups to prevent waste and to cut down on unhealthy competition."

Turning to the role of the AJC in acting in support of Israel, Gordis commented: "We are one of the groups that try to promote Israel's interests in the U.S. We have credibility on Capitol Hill because we are a central, broad-based group that makes our voice heard in a quiet behind-the-scenes fashion. We don't try to take the place of the kind of work Alpaia (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) does, but we give another perspective which is also very valuable."

He said that political leaders turn to the AJC "because they know our judgments are independent (of Israel) and come out of a wide-ranging American agenda."

In Israel, the organization's Institute of Israel-Diaspora Relations carries out frequent exchanges between American Jews and Israelis, and conducts research and public opinion in both countries.

Gordis said: "I have raised eyebrows by stating that Israel cannot be built on the ruins of American Jewish life. For American Jews, America is really where we are going to stay. While Israelis may hope for more aliyah, denigration of the Diaspora is not solid ground on which to build an intimate relationship."

Asked if his statement was not in line with the AJC's ambivalence toward Zionism before the creation of Israel, Gordis responded: "We were never anti-Zionist, but non-Zionist. It is true though that there is a historical continuity in our ideology, stressing now as the AJC did in a pamphlet (before World War II) that, *America is Our Home*. I think we need to get over our hangup in affirming that belief, and begin working closely together with Israel in mutually beneficial partnership."

Gordis reported that the AJC is establishing an Institute of Human Relations in Jerusalem. "The focus will be on working with Israeli in-

Promoting pluralism

The old American Jewish Committee image is out of date, says David Gordis, the AJC's executive director, who explains its outlook to Post New York Correspondent Walter Ruby



America welcoming Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe—a 1969 sticker of the Hebrew Publishing Co. of New York.

situations and entities such as the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and others involved in research using intergroup techniques for defusing Israel's internal tensions that we all know about—Sephardi-Ashkenazi, Arab-Jew, religious-secular.

Gordis was pressed as to whether his pluralistic American model was applicable to Israel, which is not based on pluralism but on the concept of a Jewish state. He replied: "Our argument is that it does and should apply. We are not arguing that the same church-state model that exists here should apply to Israel. All we are saying is that in our opinion, a much greater degree of church-state separation than now exists in Israel would be good for the country."

He explained: "The fact that the State of Israel should have a Jewish character is not incompatible with democracy. The question is what techniques and strategies are appropriate in securing and advancing the notion of a Jewish state. Encouraging Jews to have more children or to settle in Galilee, which has few Jews, is a responsible and good strategy. In my view there will have to be some disposition of the West Bank, and it would have been better to have put the energy that went into settling Judea and Samaria into settling the Galilee." Gordis noted that the AJC has taken a formal position in favour of territorial compromise in the administered areas.

Asked whether there was not a contradiction between the AJC's support of liberal causes and its publication of *Commentary* magazine, which almost invariably takes hard-line, right-wing positions on various issues, Gordis said: "There

is no contradiction. We also publish *Pravener Tense* [which has a markedly liberal perspective]. We make it quite clear that neither publication represents the view of the AJC."

Asked what directions he expects the AJC to take over the next several years, Gordis replied: "Our stress, both domestically and in Israel, is going to be on the promotion of pluralism. We are concerned about the vulnerability to extremism of some in America, as we have seen in recent months in the farm belt. We are concerned about some of the manifestations of anti-Semitism in the black community, and are working hard with black leaders to discuss that problem and to try to overcome disagreements. We don't agree with those who say Jews should just shout on the street corner that all blacks are anti-Semitic and turn away from them."

Looking to the future of American Jewry, Gordis remarked: "We aren't going to build the future of the community on gambling on who is going to be in power next. We believe the fundamental source of our ideology has to be the values we live by. We believe in an approach to government which synthesizes patriotic values, traditional family values, a strong, vital and active United States which is economically and morally sound, with an ideology of an American government which is humane and concerned for disadvantaged people, and which continues a tradition of civil rights, human rights, and the protection of all people. We don't choose to please one or another political party or ideology."

He concluded, "We intend to remain full partners in defining the national agenda, rather than as a group concerned with protecting its narrow self-interest."

SEVEN JEWS who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power maintain that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel, but also anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the president's policy in Central America have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference last month.

He singled out Brickner, as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition, which has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista Contras.

Those who deny Sandinista anti-Semitism "have chosen to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who understandably denies allegation of anti-Semitism rather than the word of Jews who actually lived in Nicaragua and were forced to flee," Chris Gersten, the coalition's executive director, said.

REFUGEES CHARGE:

'Sandinistas are anti-Semitic'

AT ABOUT the same time that the press conference was being held, Brickner was taking part in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the Contras.

The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted President Anastasio) Somoza," Brickner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following the rally.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime. "I have never had anything to do with any government," Sarita Kellerman, a native-born Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation" are still in Nicaragua. "The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears

for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshipping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their takeover we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice,'" Luft said. The graffiti said "Zionism, Judaism and Somozaism are all the same thing."

Asked about the firebombing, Brickner snapped, "I don't want to argue that. It's a dumb, stupid argument because nobody really knows what happened. I suggest to you that what happened is different than what they report." At the same time, however, Brickner stressed that neither Reagan nor any of the supporters of aid for the Contras have evidence "of any ongoing anti-Semitism expressed by the present government of Nicaragua to Jews or against Jews from 1979 to 1986."

AT THE COALITION'S press conference, Oscar Kellerman said he fled after the 1979 Sandinista takeover when he was warned as a U.S. citizen by the U.S. embassy that it would not be able to protect him. He said he was told he was in especial danger because of his "faith."

Sarita Kellerman said she returned later but was ostracized and was constantly harassed and threatened. She said there was graffiti on her home, business and the synagogue saying, "what Hitler started we will finish."

Oscar Kellerman said he was in the synagogue when it was firebombed, setting the door aflame. When he and others tried to get outside they were met by seven or eight masked men who warned them to go back inside or be shot. They eventually were able to get the fire out, Kellerman said. The Jews also stressed the closeness of the Sandinistas with the PLO, a theme that has been stressed repeatedly in the Administration's campaign for Contra aid.

Brickner, however, was insistent that the Sandinistas are neither anti-Semitic nor hostile to Israel, in spite of their ties with the PLO, stressing instead Nicaragua's "concern" over alleged Israeli aid to the Contras, which Israel has denied supplying. (JTA)

Reconstructionist battle for recognition

THE FEDERATION OF Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH) sharply denounced the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) following the Council's decision to deny membership to Reconstructionism.

Warning that the denial "can harm Jewish unity," Lillian Kaplan, president of the Federation, charged that this rejection "negates the essence of [the SCA's] mandate."

The application of the FRCH for membership in the SCA was rejected in March after the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (UOJCA) exercised a unilateral

veto by voting against the admission. The other members of the SCA—which was founded in 1926 by the three major synagogue movements of American Judaism (Reform, Conservative and Orthodox)—and their rabbinical affiliates—supported the admission of the Reconstructionists. The SCA by-laws include the rule that a nay vote by any of its six members can veto any proposition put before its board.

The six members of the SCA are: the Central Conference of American Rabbis and Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform); the UOJCA and the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox);

and the United Synagogue of America and the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative). The FRCH claims to be the fourth major movement in American Judaism.

FRCH executive director Rabbi David Teutsch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that following the veto, his organization held discussions with leaders of the UOJCA in an effort to change their opposition to the Reconstructionists' membership in the SCA, but to no avail. It was after these efforts failed that last week a statement denouncing the rejection was issued.

Asked to explain the reasons for voting against the admission of the

FRCH, Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice-president of the UOJCA, said that by admitting additional groups, the SCA "would needlessly confuse the already confused landscape."

According to Teutsch, the FRCH had applied for membership in the SCA more than 10 years ago and was rejected. He said that the FRCH has about 75,000 members in 56 congregations around the country.

"The Council's decision demonstrates woefully insufficient commitment to pluralism on the part of the Orthodox in the American Jewish community," Teutsch said. (JTA)

The Jewish friendship of havura

HAROLD M. SCHULWEIS

Jewish companionship, to overcome the distance among Jews, even those who belong to the same synagogue. Even volunteering to serve on synagogue committees falls short of the promise of making friends. Presidents, secretaries, treasurers may work for years together without ever entering each other's homes.

THIS YEAR marks the fifteenth year of the synagogue havura, that phenomenon of the will of a minyan of families who seek Jewish friendship, who design to be with each other in order to grow Jewishly.

The members of the havura family can confess to each other that in so many matters they don't all know, understand, believe or feel what the tradition assumes is known, felt or believed. The shame is not in not knowing or not feeling or not believing, but in not doing anything about it. Friends allow for honesty. With Jewish friends, individuals can retrieve, rediscover what remains half-buried and invent new expressions of Jewish living. Jews need Jews to be Jewish. Therefore, the havura was born.

Havurot are diverse. Some study text, some celebrate festivals, some engage in prayer, some cook and eat. Some havurot are more successful than others, but all havurot engage in learning something not found in bibliographies or adult education courses: the art of human relationships.

As one member confided, "I like to learn, but I don't like to study. I'm not that interested in books or lectures, but the havura has taught me much." When asked what he had got out of the havura he replied, "I

learned 'menschlichkeit'. I learned to understand people and how to cultivate friendships. My closest friend is a man I first met through the havura. I saw him as a gregarious, self-centred, quarrelsome sort. But in time, I learned to look beneath all that. Here was a sensitive man who sought attention, recognition, concern, friendship. I learned to recognize myself in him. I'm very much like him. Beneath that argument was myself. We're in the same havura now for ten years. He has become my dearest friend."

Is it a Jewish mitzva to learn how to make friends?

The men in that havura envied the women who were so much more open with each other. The men decided to meet separately once a month outside the havura. They met at a restaurant and soon developed their own agenda. They spoke of their fathers, of their own roles as fathers; they spoke of prayer and their search for spirituality, and one revealed his anguish over the discovery of the homosexual identity of a close relative.

Males in our society appear especially friendless. Males in our society have absorbed the macho myth of invulnerability. But here were men, out of the experience with havura, who confessed their fragile side and found wisdom in others. We learn best from those we regard as friends. They had become Jewish friends.

JEWISH FRIENDSHIP can motivate and implement Jewish activity where the noblest of public educational and rhetorical efforts fail. Rabbin who have preached excellently about the observance of Shabbat will be bought and used. But there remains the distance between heart and hand which makes hypocrites of us all. At the threshold, sanctuary enthusiasm fades into paralysis.

With the emergence of the synagogue havura, *succot* have sprung up all over town. Alone, he will not build a succa—but with nine other *haverim* he will proudly pound nails

into boards, scour the city for palms; and his wife and child will join with others to hang fruits and vegetables from the latticed roofs and prepare a Succot meal.

Jewish children rarely observe the joy of a Jewish deed, the joy of Jewish friendship in action. Outside the synagogue and without benefit of clergy, in private courtyards and homes, children see, hear, touch, smell, taste Jewish life with others. A discovery is made. Jewishness is more than sanctuary: Jews are more than the rabbis, cantors and Hebrew school teachers of the temple. There are Jewish people, Jewish parents, Jewish friends who can sing and pray and play Jewishly. Judaism is not just a gathered audience in an auditorium. Judaism is in Jewish people, with Jewish friends, for Jewish celebration.

The sickness of a member of the havura elicits from the group a grounded response of *bikkur holim*, the ethic of visiting the sick. She who was operated on last week called to tell me through tears of thanksgiving that when she returned from the hospital, she found her home cleaned, the refrigerator filled with food for the Shabbat. She blessed the friendship of havura.

The synagogue cannot depend on its ushering committee to create an ambience of warmth. The spirit in the sanctuary is formed well before the sanctuary is entered. The taste of peoplehood and communal responsibility is prepared in the experiences shared in homes, in the interpersonal relationships of the mini-community called havura.

The synagogue must include among its objectives the creation of vehicles for the cultivation of Jewish friendship. It's not good to be alone and Jewish institutions must help overcome that aloneness. The power of Jewish friendship to shape the character of community ought not be wasted by neglect. It ought not be assumed as a given of synagogue affiliation or taken for granted as a by-product of membership. In our highly privatized society, the art of Jewish friendship is to be cultivated and pursued. It is means and end of Jewish living.

The writer, rabbi of the Valley Beth Shalom synagogue in Encino, California, is the founder of the American havura movement.

The Jewish World page is edited by Moshe Kohn.

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